AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Claims 7 and 10 have been amended.

Listing of Claims

1.   (original) A method in a computing environment for determining compatibility of parts in a selected product configuration, the method comprising:

determining whether a new part is compatible with one or more existing parts of the product configuration; and

if said new part is not compatible with one or more existing parts, determining a replacement part for one of an existing incompatible part and said new part.

2.   (original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising replacing said existing incompatible part with a compatible alternative existing part.

3.   (original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising providing an alternative new part if a replacement part to said existing incompatible part is not available.

4.   (original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising determining whether said new part is compatible with the product configuration.

5.   (original) The method as recited in claim 4, further comprising consulting a product table to determine whether said new part is compatible with the product configuration.

6. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising consulting a part incompatibility table to determine whether said new part is incompatible with one or more existing parts.

7. (currently amended) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising determining whether said new part is incompatible with one ~~or~~or more base parts of the product configuration, wherein if said new part is incompatible with one or more base parts, an alternative new part is provided.

8. (original) A computer system having a processor, a memory and an operating environment, the computer system operable to perform the steps recited in claim 1.

9. (original) A computer system capable of determining the compatibility of parts in a product configuration, the computer system comprising:

a compatibility component which determines whether a selected part is compatible with existing parts of the configuration; and

a replacement component which determines replacement parts for one of existing parts and new parts if a determination of incompatibility is made.

10. (currently amended) The computer system as recited in claim 9, further comprising a part determination component which determines whether a selected part is compatible with the product configuration~~of such a nature to be added as a part~~.

11. (original) The computer system as recited in claim 9, wherein said compatibility component includes a part incompatibility table which indicates which parts are incompatible with one another.

12.   (original) The computer system as recited in claim 10, wherein said part determination component includes a product table for determining whether said selected part is one that can be added to said existing parts.

13.   (original) A computer readable medium containing a data structure for storing part incompatibility information, wherein the data structure comprises:

a plurality of records in a table, each record including

at least two product identification values, said values representing that said products represented by said identification values are incompatible, and

an indication as to product identification values which are suitable replacements for at least one of said product identification values entered in said record.

14.   (original) A computer readable medium containing a method for determining compatibility of parts in a selected product configuration, wherein the method comprises:

determining whether a new part is compatible with one or more existing parts of the product configuration; and

if said new part is not compatible with one or more existing parts, determining a replacement part for one of an existing incompatible part and said new part.

15.   (original) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 14, wherein the method further comprises replacing said existing incompatible part with a compatible alternative existing part.

16.   (original) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 14, wherein the method further comprises providing an alternative new part if a replacement part to said existing incompatible part is not available.

17.   (original) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 14, wherein the method further comprises determining whether said new part is compatible with the product configuration.

18.   (original) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 17, wherein the method further comprises consulting a product table to determine whether said new part is compatible with the product configuration.

19.   (original) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 14, wherein the method further comprises consulting a part incompatibility table to determine whether said new part is incompatible with one or more existing parts.

20.   (original) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 14, wherein the method further comprises determining whether said new part is incompatible with one or more base parts of the product configuration, wherein if said new part is incompatible with one or more base parts, an alternative new part is provided.